

## Editorial

For the past 2 years the Editorial Board has operated a vigorous campaign to solicit manuscripts from active workers in lively fields. Our goal has been to provide the scientific public with critical evaluations of subjects which are in a stage of rapid development and therefore most likely to need interpretation by experienced persons.

In each field of interest there are many workers who are capable of writing with authority on the current state of knowledge. No two of them, however, would select exactly the same list of publications to review, or come to the same general conclusions. Thus, each review that we publish reflects to a high degree the judgment, intuition, and specific interests of the individual author. We would not want it to be otherwise.

We do run a risk, however, in demanding critical and selective reviews from authors who are active workers in controversial fields. The risk is that, in the eyes of some readers, certain areas may be inadequately dealt with, or certain points of view may be inadequately represented. For those who disagree with a reviewer for either of these reasons, there has been no opportunity in the past to put their own views on record within a reasonable period of time.

With this in mind, we have decided to initiate a "Letters to the Editor" section, beginning with this issue. This will be an experimental venture, and will be evaluated at the end of a year's time before deciding whether it should become a permanent feature of *Bacteriological Reviews*. Letters to the Editor which offer constructive comments of substantive importance pertaining to reviews appearing in the most recent past issue of *Bacteriological Reviews* will be published, at the discretion of the Editor. Letters received will be read by the referees of the reviews under discussion, and the Editor will rely on their judgment as to the suitability of the letters for publication. Any letter that is to be published will also be shown to the authors of the review in question, and their reply (if any) will be published simultaneously.

Letters which raise important questions concerning the editorial policies of *Bacteriological Reviews* will also be welcomed; we hope that the new section will provide a forum for the exchange of views that will be of interest and value to our readers.

Edward A. Adelberg  
Editor